



The Public Defense of the Doctoral Dissertation in Medieval Studies

of

LUKA ŠPOLJARIĆ

on

**NICHOLAS OF MODRUŠ, 'THE GLORY OF ILLYRIA':
HUMANIST PATRIOTISM AND SELF-FASHIONING IN
RENAISSANCE ROME**

will be held on

Tuesday, June 11 2013, at 12:00,

in the

Monument Building, Senate Room
Central European University
Nádor u. 9, Budapest

Examination Committee

- Chair Susan Zimmermann (Department of History)
- Members Niels Gaul (Department of Medieval Studies) – Supervisor
Gábor Klaniczay (Department of Medieval Studies)
Tijana Krstić (Department of Medieval Studies)
- External Neven Budak (University of Zagreb)
James Hankins (Harvard University)
Neven Jovanović (University of Zagreb)

DOCTORAL DISSERTATION ABSTRACT

LUKA ŠPOLJARIĆ

NICHOLAS OF MODRUŠ, 'THE GLORY OF ILLYRIA': HUMANIST PATRIOTISM AND SELF-FASHIONING IN RENAISSANCE ROME

The dissertation reconstructs and contextualizes the life of Nicholas bishop of Modruš (ca. 1427–1480), most often evoked as a papal diplomat who played an important role in the events surrounding the fall of the Bosnian kingdom to the Ottomans in 1463, subsequently spending the rest of his life in the provinces of the Papal States where he formed his grand library and engaged himself with philosophical and antiquarian matters. In a word, the Nicholas of Modruš imagined today is one painted with broad strokes, a result of the fact that the bulk of his oeuvre still remains buried in manuscript, and his career at the papal Curia largely unstudied. By introducing an ample amount of unpublished material into discussion, establishing a new dating for a number of his works, correcting a number of mistakes and assumptions, and finally addressing various previously unconnected paths of research, the dissertation sheds new light on the role of Nicholas of Modruš on the stage of Renaissance Rome. Therefore, just as any other biography, so this dissertation too is selective. While it is divided into four sections that treat chronologically four successive phases of Nicholas' life, it is the *Part I* and *Part II*, discussing the first years of his Curial career, that bring particularly two questions under close scrutiny: the bishop's humanism and his patriotism. The dissertation combines a wide range of extant documentary, epistolary, literary, codicological and palaeographical evidence, published and unpublished, most of which find their place among the *Appendices*.

CURRICULUM VITAE
LUKA ŠPOLJARIĆ

Education

- 2008–2013** *PhD in Medieval Studies*
Central European University, Budapest
- 2007–2008** *MA in Medieval Studies*
Central European University, Budapest
- 2002–2007** *Diploma in History and Latin Language with Roman Literature*
Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Zagreb

Fellowships, Scholarships, and Awards

- 2012** Short-term Frances A. Yates Fellow at the Warburg Institute
- 2011** Attended the CEU Summer University course ‘Medieval Codicology and Palaeography: Greek book hand’; Budapest
- 2011** Attended the course ‘L’idea di Roma dall’Ellenismo all’Umanesimo: XXII Seminario di Alta Cultura’, organized by the Istituto Internazionale di Studi Piceni; Sassoferrato
- 2011** Renaissance Society of America Research Grant
- 2011** CEU Advanced Doctoral Student Award
- 2010** Visiting Fellow at the Harvard University History Department
- 2010** Attended a one-month-long course in philology, palaeography and codicology ‘Translating the Past’, organized by the Institute at Palazzo Rucellai, Johns Hopkins University, and Istituto Storico Italiano per il Medioevo; Florence
- 2009** Incoming Visegrad Scholarship
- 2008** Attended the CEU Summer University course ‘From Holy War to Peaceful Cohabitation: Diversity of Crusading and Military Orders’; Budapest

Publications

- Forth.** ‘O intelektualnom krugu i rukopisnoj kulturi na dvoru Matije Korvina: Nikola Modruški i *Petrova lađica*’ [On the intellectual circle and manuscript culture at the court of Matthias Corvinus: Nicholas of Modruš and *Peter’s Barge*]. In *Grada za povijest književnosti hrvatske* [Sources for the history of Croatian literature], vol. 38, ed. Dunja Fališevac. Zagreb: Hrvatska akademija znanosti i umjetnosti, 2013.
- Forth.** ‘*Reditus imperii ad Latinos*: The Komnenian Emperors in William of Tyre’s *Historia*.’ In *From Holy War to Peaceful Cohabitation: Diversity of Crusading and Military Orders*, ed. József Laszlovszky and Zsolt Hunyadi. Budapest: CEU Press, 2013.

- 2012** ‘*Ex libris Nicolai Episcopi Modrussiensis: Knjižnica Nikole Modruškog*’ [*Ex libris Nicolai Episcopi Modrussiensis: The library of Nicholas of Modruš*]. *Colloquia Maruliana* 21 (2012): 25–68.
- 2009** ‘Rhetoricizing Effeminacy in Twelfth-Century *Outremer*: William of Tyre and the Byzantine Empire.’ *Annual of Medieval Studies at CEU* 15 (2009): 9–21.

Research Experience

Archive of the Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts, Zagreb (Jan, Dec 2010); National Széchényi Library, Budapest (Jan 2009); Biblioteca Riccardiana, Florence (Jun 2010); Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale, Florence (Jun 2010); Archivio di Stato di Firenze, Florence (Jun 2010); Biblioteca dell’Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei e Corsiniana, Rome (Feb 2010; Feb–Mar, Oct–Nov 2011); Biblioteca Angelica, Rome (Feb 2010; Feb–Mar, Oct–Nov 2011); Biblioteca Casanatense, Rome (Feb–Mar, Oct–Nov 2011); Biblioteca Apostolica Vaticana, Vatican (Feb–Mar, Oct–Nov 2011); Houghton Library, Cambridge MA (Sep–Dec 2010); Biblioteca Nazionale ‘Vittorio Emanuele III’, Naples (Nov 2011); British Library, London (Jan–Mar 2012); Bodleian Library, Oxford (Feb 2012); Österreichische Nationalbibliothek, Vienna (May 2013)

Teaching Experience (Courses and Workshops)

- 2012/2013b** ***Selected Sources for the Late Medieval History of Croatia***
History Department, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Zagreb
- 2009/2010b** ***MEDS 5909 Latin Beginner II (Teaching Assistant)***
Department of Medieval Studies, CEU Budapest
- 2009/2010a** ***MEDS 5909 Latin Beginner I (Teaching Assistant)***
Department of Medieval Studies, CEU Budapest
- 2012 Apr** ***Stories of Manuscripts (Sixth annual Latin student workshop)***
Marulić Days 2012, Split
- 2011 Apr** ***Manuscript Scholia (Fifth annual Latin student workshop)***
Marulić Days 2011, Split

Research Interests

Renaissance intellectual elite; humanist rhetoric and historiography; history of patriotism; Renaissance book culture; political and cultural history of late medieval Croatia in the context of the wider region; crusades; Nicholas of Modruš